

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. MCCARTHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ACKNOWLEDGING TODAY'S GUEST CHAPLAIN, THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN CLARK BUCHANAN, RETIRED EPISCOPAL BISHOP OF WEST MISSOURI

(Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to acknowledge our guest chaplain today, the Right Reverend John Clark Buchanan. What a joy it was to hear his voice once again, inspiring me and others to do good work.

John Clark Buchanan is the retired Episcopal bishop of West Missouri, having served our area from 1989 to 2000. He has a diverse background, having been a lawyer in private practice and in the insurance industry prior to his ordained ministry.

Bishop Buchanan currently serves as a parliamentarian for the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church. We in western Missouri are very grateful for the 11 years he served us. He created the most successful Bishop Spencer Place, a moderately priced retirement center for our elderly.

He also, in his 11 years, established stable financial funding for the church, and also did extensive planning for new churches in the area outside of greater Kansas City. Key among his reforms and his instrumental efforts were, of course, reaching out and creating and establishing Hispanic missions.

Bishop Buchanan lives in Charleston, South Carolina, with his wife Peggy. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. I thank him for taking his time to come and deliver this thoughtful prayer with us this morning.

CONGRATULATING CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL ON WINNING FLORIDA STATE CLASS 6A BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Christopher Columbus High School in my congressional district for winning the Florida State Class 6A Baseball Championship. Columbus enjoyed an 8-2 win, thanks to a seven-run rally in the bottom of the sixth. This marks the first State

baseball title for Columbus, that has long had one of the most outstanding baseball programs in Miami-Dade County and, indeed, in our State.

Christopher Columbus is a private Roman Catholic college prep school conducted by the Marist Brothers. In addition to its strong athletic program, Columbus has an exceptional academic program, as well. It uses a holistic approach to education where the entire person is encouraged to grow in truth and freedom.

Please join me in congratulating Christopher Columbus and its coach, Joe Weber, for their phenomenal win.

DEMOCRATS WILL BE HEARD TODAY DURING PROCEEDINGS UNDER SUSPENSION CALENDAR

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I approach the floor to alert the House that a substantial number of Members are prepared to see that we do not pass suspension bills until such time as the grievances of this great body are addressed.

As most of us know, recently this House passed a tax bill without the inclusion of one thought, one amendment, one idea that the Democrats have had. There comes a time that we have to say, enough is enough, not because we are Democrats, but because we represent people throughout these United States whose interests have been ignored.

Six and one-half million low-income working families and 12 million children have been denied the benefits that this House was allowed to believe existed in the tax bill. It was excluded. Why? It was excluded to make certain that the money borrowed from the Treasury would take care of the high-income people receiving relief from capital gains and from interest taxes.

We will be heard today, Mr. Speaker.

BURMA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked and deeply disturbed by events over the weekend in Burma, the arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi and the death of the prodemocracy activists there. The Government of Burma should release Aung San Suu Kyi and end its brutal dictatorship of the people of Burma.

The government says that Suu Kyi is in "protective custody." Burma's record of protecting its people is highly suspect. The people of Burma have suffered for too long from the SPDC, from campaigns of systematic rape, murder, forced labor, destruction of villages, food sources, and a myriad of other atrocities, including the deaths of many small children.

The international community, particularly Burma's neighbors, must press the Burmese military government to recognize the fact that the people want freedom. The government must accept the legitimate election of the National League for Democracy. The world community should condemn the dictatorship's actions.

I call on the U.S. Government to take deliberate, serious action to help free Aung San Suu Kyi and the people of Burma. To the people of Burma, we stand with them.

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE TIBETANS AND THE BURMESE

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw attention to two recent events signaling a step backward for basic human rights. The Nepali Government violated international law by jailing 18 Tibetan refugees instead of turning them over to the United Nations. Nepal then made these refugees prisoners of the Chinese, the very people that they were fleeing.

International refugee law is well settled, that once Tibetans reach Nepal, they are turned over to the U.N. for safe passage. Nepal's action flies in the face of her commitment to international law, and American tourists should not visit Nepal.

Second, in Burma on Friday the military dictatorship detained many members of the National League of Democracy, including Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, and closed all universities. Suu Kyi, the elected leader of her country, was beaten, and her whereabouts are currently unknown.

I want to commend Secretary Powell for speaking out against both governments, and urge Members of Congress to call attention to these two governments, Nepal and Burma, that are turning back the clock on human rights.

ACTION BY FCC ENDANGERS AMERICA'S BASIC FREEDOMS

(Mr. SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to state how disappointed and, quite frankly, disturbed I am with the actions of the FCC on yesterday. That was a very dangerous vote to the future of this country. This country was founded on many, many freedoms, but none more basic than the freedom of the press, freedom of information, and the diversity of that information.

That action on yesterday by the FCC certainly puts us at a very clear and present danger of losing that freedom of the press in many respects. It will certainly short-circuit small business